

care to those in need, fundraising events for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundations, and the youth-oriented Project Return.

Family has been an important part of Mr. Cortez's life. He has been married to his wife Sylvia for 31 years and together they have three wonderful daughters. Following a crippling auto accident involving his beloved wife and daughter, Mr. Cortez has refocused his efforts to raising awareness and money for spinal cord research.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable gentleman. Mr. Cortez's determination to excel in everything he does and desire to use his status to help those less fortunate, serve as shining examples for us all.

TRIBUTE TO DUNCANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the cosmetology department students and faculty at Duncanville High School for winning first place in the national American Set-a-Good-Example competition. And I also congratulate Duncanville High School for their selection as this year's Learning Improvement Award winner.

Duncanville High School is only the second school in the past two decades to win both these national awards in the same year. As a result, Duncanville High School will receive \$7,500 in grant funds for these honors.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America for sponsoring this competition and also Dr. Phyllis Mack of Savannah, GA, for funding these grants. With the program now in its 11th year, it is an excellent tool to recognize outstanding achievements in our public schools, and to reward that success with funding to help further enhance education.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the young people of Duncanville High School worked hard to earn this recognition and by their participation have shown they can indeed take actions to better their own lives, their communities, and thereby improve the world we all share.

Once again I would like to send my heartiest congratulations to Principal Mike Chrietzberg and all the teachers, parents and students who share in these incredible achievements.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WHEELER, A HERO FOR CHARLES COUNTY SENIORS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who dedicated his time, energy, and spirit to bettering his community and the entire senior population of Charles County, MD. George E. Wheeler spent the majority of his adult life serving southern Maryland as an area agricultural engineer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture working on

such projects as the Maryland Delaware Watershed Unit and establishing the first resource conservation and development project in Maryland. This work was important in coordinating efforts between the farming and conservation communities to assure the two worked together for their mutual interests.

But it is the work George Wheeler did within his community which we recognize him for today. Always there to lend a hand, George Wheeler became actively involved in advocating and initiating projects to benefit the senior community. Appointed to the Charles County Commission on Aging in 1972 and the Area Council on Aging in 1979, it became Mr. Wheeler's mission to make certain seniors in the community had the resources and programs for each of them to have a fulfilling and meaningful role in making their town and neighborhoods an enriching place to live.

George Wheeler had the dream of having a place where seniors could gather; a place where they could meet their friends and participate in activities and educational programs and work on projects to benefit the entire community; a place where seniors can exercise in the state of the art fitness center and a place where they know they can get some of the best meals in town.

Through hours of discussions, planning, and problem solving, George Wheeler spoke of the interests of seniors and laid out the vision of the beautiful facility called the Richard R. Clark Senior Center. In 1987, as chairman of the building committee for the center, Mr. Wheeler joined in the opening of this wonderful facility and saw his dream become a reality. He was never deterred by obstacles, but maintained a positive attitude, knowing that one way or another he would achieve his goal. And once the center was built, he continued in that spirit to bring in the best of programs and people to enhance the center.

It is George Wheeler's long hours of time, devotion and dedication which the seniors of Charles County benefit from today. We celebrate his tireless efforts in making the Richard R. Clark Senior Center possible and congratulate his wife, Erma and his children, Richard and Chris, as we dedicate this plaque in his honor.

TRIBUTE TO QUEEN MOTHER MOORE: BELOVED ACTIVIST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to Audrey (Queen Mother) Moore a leader and activist in New York City who passed away at the age of 98.

Queen Mother Moore is beloved in the African-American community for her life-long dedication to the upliftment of the disaffected, disenfranchised and the neglected. She was named Queen Mother by the Ashanti Tribe in Ghana, West Africa. Queen Mother Moore was a stalwart in the cause of civil rights, and believed that self-pride, dignity, honor, and hard work were the foundation upon which success and self-respect are built.

Born in New Iberia, LA, she spent her life trying to educate African-Americans about the past glory and contributions of African soci-

eties, and encouraged young people to make a commitment to educationally, economically, and politically strengthen the black community. She worked to organized domestic workers in the city of New York, fought to overturn the eviction of black tenants, and sought to integrate major league baseball.

Indeed, Queen Mother Moore established a legacy of love and commitment that spanned the decades of her life. In her passing years she suffered with declining health, but continued her strong convictions on behalf of the causes she held dear, social justice and political empowerment. Her passionate voice and vibrant spirit will be sorely missed. I salute her work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ANDERT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Richard Andert, as he is named Los Angeles Police Department Police Officer of the Year. The Woodland Hills community joins me in praising him for his commitment and dedication to making our area a safer place to live.

Officer Andert's commitment to the safety and well-being of our citizens should serve as an inspiration to all Americans. He is a role model not only to younger but also to higher ranking police officers on the force. Of the countless examples of his leadership, none stand out more than his commitment to traffic safety. He single-handedly implemented a crackdown on speeding drivers in order to ensure the safety of the children in our neighborhood and return the neighborhood to the safe and quiet area it should be.

Officer Andert practices kindness, caring, and compassion in even the most routine situations. One day a panicked West Valley resident arrived at the police station, unable to enter a house where she was responsible for feeding a cat and dog. Upon investigating the situation Officer Andert discovered the woman was attempting to enter the wrong house and then assisted her in entering the correct home. It is Officer Andert's willingness to go the extra mile that has distinguished his career.

In closing Mr. Speaker, if this Nation had more Richard Anderts on America's police forces, our neighborhoods would be safer places to live. It is a personal honor to me, as his Congressman, to acknowledge his accomplishments which bring deep honor to our community, and to offer my warm congratulations and heartfelt thanks.

NATIONAL WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize an organization that I became familiar with soon after arriving in Washington as a freshman in 1985. National Write Your Congressman has been providing me and my

office with important and intelligent information from our district since 1953.

Their legislative updates, entitled "We The People," arrived monthly in my office, sometimes with copies of my 1-minute speeches from the House floor printed in the Congressional Comments section. In June 1994, National Write Your Congressman featured my bill to move the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the IRS in civil tax court as the topic of a survey. The results astounded me: Ninety-three percent of their readers favored my bill, and soon afterword, I had over 300 cosponsors.

National Write Your Congressman's opinion ballots are some of the only polls I trust. Their members respond because they want to participate in the democratic process, not because some polling organization called them.

I find that letterwriters from National Write Your Congressman are well informed about issues in Washington that effect their lives. Their readers should know that they do have clout in Washington because their voices are heard monthly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment National Write Your Congressman for its work for nearly 40 years to bring the opinions of Americans to their Federal representatives in Washington.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE MOOSE

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Moosehaven facility, which provides residential care to older members of the Loyal Order of the Moose. I am proud to have this outstanding facility, located in Orange Park, FL, as part of my district.

The Loyal Order of the Moose will be holding its international convention in Florida this summer. They have selected Florida as the convention site for the purposes of acknowledging the Moosehaven facility.

Founded in 1922, the Moosehaven facility is unique in the fraternal world. The self-funded facility currently provides free care to 420 men and women who are members of the Moose Order. The infinite need for organizations to provide community-based solutions is exemplified by the success of the Moosehaven facility.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Moosehaven facility on its 75th anniversary, and I look forward to its continued growth and progress in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE NORTH HUDSON COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION: PROUD PARTICIPANT IN COMMUNITY ACTION WEEK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly exceptional organization, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation [NHCAC]. On May 9, a celebration

commemorating Community Action Week will officially open the NHCAC's one-stop Health Center located at their newly consolidated facility in West New York, NJ.

National Community Action Week is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of community-based action, making this a fitting opportunity to recognize the contributions of the NHCAC. This respected institution has provided much needed assistance to the residents of Northern Hudson County, NJ, for over 30 years. Its mission of people helping people is exemplified in the more than 20 programs and 37,000 clients served by NHCAC.

The types of assistance offered by NHCAC are as diverse as the population it serves. NHCAC provides services in health care, nutrition, substance abuse treatment, emergency food and shelter shortages, social and home services, and early childhood development through Head Start. Specifically, programs benefiting North Hudson residents include the Women, Infants and Children [WIC] nutrition plan, Senior Treatment and Education Program [STWP], a food pantry, limited transitional housing, immigration and naturalization help, tenant and landlord relations, job placement, and home weatherization and maintenance. Everyone who has utilized NHCAC's services may attest to the compassionate nature of this outstanding group of individuals.

The official opening of North Hudson Communication Action Corporation's Health Center at West New York is another step along the road to ensuring quality and affordable health services for the entire community. Staffed by medical professionals, the health center provides a broad range of health services including family care, gynecology and family planning, premarital examinations, dental screening, mental health, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and counseling and health education workshops.

The men and women of the North Hudson Community Action Corporation give new meaning to the words community action. Under the direction of executive director Michael Leggiero, NHCAC has gained national recognition for dedicated and caring service to the community. I am proud to have this extraordinary organization working on behalf of the members of my district.

HONORING JOHN "JACK" PIDGEON

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell my colleagues about the retirement of a singular individual who is legendary in his achievements in the academic world. His name is John "Jack" Pidgeon.

Jack Pidgeon grew up in a poor working class town in Massachusetts. He won a scholarship to prestigious Andover Prep School, where he studied alongside former President Bush and Actor Jack Lemmon. After being seriously wounded in WWII, he went on to devote his life to giving that gift of educational opportunity to other bright young students hundreds of times over.

And he did it against some incredible odds.

In 1952, Jack Pidgeon left a secure teaching job at Deerfield Academy to become the

headmaster of a sickly, broke, rundown 350-acre prep school called Kiski in western Pennsylvania. When he arrived, the school, founded in 1888, had a few dilapidated buildings, no running water, no furniture, no credit, no donor support, no gate. It was \$200,000 in debt. Jack Pidgeon took a look around and started up a bulldozer himself to clear the grounds and enlisted faculty and students to mow, paint, even tar roofs.

Seven years later, after everyone told him the school had no chance, Kiski received a \$10,000 donation—its first donation of over \$1,000 in the history of the school. Finally, in 1966, after years of dogged efforts by this devoted crusader, the late Sarah Mellon Scaife gave the school \$50,000. That was a turning point, and Jack Pidgeon never looked back.

On May 16 of this year, Jack Pidgeon is retiring as headmaster of Kiski, leaving behind not only a student and alumni population that thinks of him as a father, but a financially robust institution entirely of his crafting, with property worth about \$20 million, an endowment of about \$10 million, and the wherewithal to grant \$350,000 per year in scholarships.

But financial success is not his most lasting legacy to this institution. Jack Pidgeon personally shaped the character of every student to who attended Kiski. His no-nonsense, pragmatic philosophy imbued generations of graduates with a realistic but profound belief in themselves and a clear sense of who they are. He stressed good manners, humility, self-respect, and drive. He is a man who gave his life to quality education and giving thousands of young boys the ability to realize their full potential as business leaders, civic leaders, and citizens. His greatest satisfaction came from offering poorer students scholarships.

I heartily commend Jack Pidgeon for his great achievements. He is a man of vision who never heard of giving up.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD R. BALDELLI

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerald Baldelli, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jerry served the Frontier Central School District with distinction in several capacities from 1961 to 1996, including teacher, coach, mathematics department chairman, director of community education, middle school principal, high school principal, and assistant superintendent for personnel service. As a teacher and former supervisor of the Town of Hamburg, I witnessed first hand Jerry's commitment to our community, and his professionalism, and integrity.

In addition to his work with Frontier Schools, Jerry has served as president of the Erie County Interscholastic Conference, president of the Erie County High School Principals' Association, president of the Western New York Association of School Personnel Administrators, and as chairman of New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

In recognition of that commitment to education, Jerry was honored as the 1966 Hamburg Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Educator, the 1988 New York State